

agree we cannot adequately recognize the sacrifices of the men and women of what has been described as our "greatest generation"—the veterans of World War II. But today, I am going to try.

Today, I pay tribute to an obscure member of the greatest generation who has slipped the surly bounds to be with God—a simple farm boy, born and raised toiling on his father's farm in Hawley, MN, a youth who, in 1942, heard the calling of duty, honor, and country and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, a man and decorated airman who, after flying 35 combat missions over Europe, returned to the United States to restart his life in Missoula, MT.

Nolan B. Giere was a ball turret gunner in the B-24 Liberator—a simple staff sergeant upon his honorable discharge in 1945. Together with his wife Marge for almost 50 years, they lived in Missoula, MT, raised four children, and served as a foundation in the community, the business and church they both so loved.

On March 26, 2009, at the Western Montana Veterans Cemetery, a grateful Nation will place to rest another of the greatest generation—Nolan Giere—a simple farmer, a veteran, a local small businessman, and ultimately a loving father and husband. Nolan Giere epitomizes all that is great about America.

To Nolan Giere, and his wife Marge, we salute you. Godspeed.

Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Air Force Chief of Staff to Marjorie Giere, commemorating the life of her husband.

The information follows:

U.S. AIR FORCE,
Washington, DC, February 19, 2009.

Mrs. Marjorie H. Giere,
Missoula, MT.

DEAR MARJORIE: On March 26, 2009, at the Veterans Cemetery in Missoula, MT, a grateful nation will place to rest a fellow Airman. Volunteering to serve his country, your husband, Nolan Giere, flew 35 combat missions during World War II in the B-24 Liberator. Like others with him and after him, Nolan realized a greater duty, and did not hesitate to pick up the torch. We honor his life, his service, and his commitment to service and country.

On behalf of all Airmen, past and present, I commemorate the life of your husband, Staff Sergeant Nolan B. Giere, United States Army Air Corps, for his selfless contributions to his country.

Sincerely,

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ,
General, USAF, Chief of Staff.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1262. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1262. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 595. A bill to authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 596. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish an award program to honor achievements in nanotechnology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 597. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 598. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve appliance standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty; to the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 600. A bill to protect public health and safety in the event that testing of nuclear weapons by the United States is resumed; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 601. A bill to establish the Weather Mitigation Research Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 602. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a survey to determine the level of compliance with national voluntary consensus standards and any barriers to achieving compliance with such standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 603. A bill to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, relating to representation in court and sanctions for violating such rule, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 604. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited by the Comptroller General of the United States and the manner in which such audits are reported, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 605. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to reinstate the uptick rule and effectively regulate abusive short selling activities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 146

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

S. 182

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 213

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend title